

## LOCAL SNIPPETS

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from Proshanto Kumar and a goal each from Mamanur Rahman and Zahid Bin Talib to power past the northern divisional side.

Hasan Ahmed of Faridpur was named the player-of-the-match in this encounter.

## TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

MolarClub and Bangladesh Chemical and Perfumery Society (BCPS) thrashed their opponents in the AB Bank Women's Table Tennis League at the Wooden Floor Gymnasium.

Jasmine, Nirmia and Oishi won in straight sets to give Molar a 3-0 win over Armenian Girls.

In the other match, Cynthia, Ripa and Snigdha of BCPS beat Ety, Binti and Nova of Dhaka Youngs.

Meanwhile, Indian table tennis players Shivaaji Datta and Ranvir Das are in Dhaka now to play for defending champions Sheikh Russell in the men's senior league.

## BASEBALL CAMP

A baseball camp, organised by Bangladesh Baseball Association, for players under the age of 16 is being held at Paltan grounds.

Interested players from that age group are urged to join the training sessions, which takes place on the mornings of Saturday, Monday and Wednesday. Forms are available with Japanese trainer Hiroki Watanabe.

## Onus on Brazil

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teams in the tournament - the top two in each of the three groups, plus the two best third-placed teams - are to advance.

However, Brazil in particular will need to do something about its image. And even in terms of results, the Copa America in Venezuela has already shown clearly that anything can happen.

## L'pool close

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negotiations with Atletico holding out for 45 million euros and Liverpool refusing to let Garcia leave.

Atletico have always said they will never sell Torres despite the Spanish press constantly linking him with moves away from the club.

However the club's major shareholder Gil Marin did say recently that no-one was irreplaceable.

## Hingis bows out

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the third game, Hingis never threatened to dent the American's powerful serve and she was strangely subdued as her opponent closed out the set.

Hingis needed to come out firing at the start of the second set but it was Granville who took the initiative again. She broke in the first game when Hingis tamely netted a forehand.

The Swiss had three break points in the sixth game, but she sent forehands long every time to let the opportunities slip away.

That proved to be Hingis's last chance.

Granville kept slugging away from the back of the court and drove home her advantage with another break before serving out the match.



Binti of Dhaka Youngs in action against Ripa of Bangladesh Chemical and Perfumery Society during the Women's Table Tennis League at the woodenfloor gymnasium yesterday.

## 15,000-up Sachin

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populous nation.

Yet Tendulkar was the first to say that, unlike Coe's achievement, or Muhammad Ali's in regaining the world heavyweight boxing title at the age of 32, his latest landmark didn't mean he'd reached a sporting pinnacle.

Left-hander Lara's ability to make match-winning centuries against world number ones Australia without compromising his attacking game gives him the edge over Tendulkar in the eyes of some observers.

India captain Rahul Dravid, also 34, though was in no doubt about the current worth of Tendulkar who has, as Chappell acknowledges, had more injury problems than Lara.

"I think he's achieved everything he ever wants to achieve in this game," Dravid said. "But it's about motivating himself and trying to do his best for the team and ensure we win games. It's great to see."

## Galletti signs

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both Olympiakos and Atletico Madrid for this opportunity," he said.

"I am pleased with the way that the administration of Olympiakos, the coaching staff and the fans welcomed me and I want to show my appreciation on the pitch."

## LEADING ODI SCORERS

Batsman	Country	ODIs	Runs	N/O	H/S	Avg	100s	50s
S Tendulkar	India	387	15,043	37	186 no	44.24	41	79
S Jayasuriya	Sri Lanka	395	12,063	18	189	32.95	25	64
Inzamam Haq	Pakistan	378	11,739	53	137 no	39.52	10	83
S Ganguly	India	294	10,880	23	183	41.68	22	68
B Lara	W Indies	299	10,405	32	169	40.48	19	63

## Tevez to decide

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Juniors and Corinthians star, who inspired West Ham to Premier League survival on the last day of the 2006/7 season.

The Cope America has recently got underway in Ecuador and finished two weeks into July, so any deal will have to wait until then at the earliest.

## Mikael out

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The same could probably said of Benitez's new goatee beard. It is the kind of thing that can only happen when a man goes on a family holiday, aware from the scathing put-downs of his co-workers.

On of Saturday's papers said it makes him look like a Conquistador. Transfer Talk would probably settle for 'pillock'.

It will be gone within a week, giving it much in common with Craig Bellamy, whose Anfield welcome has been well and truly worn out.

The Reds have slapped a big 'half price' sticker on the Welshman, who will be West Ham, Aston Villa or Blackburn's for a knockdown £6 million.

What else, what else? Well, Aston Villa are ready to shove £10 million Chelsea's way if they can have dressing-room ornament Shaun Wright-Phillips.

West Ham will roll the dice on Tottenham's moody Egyptian target man Mido, while Middlesbrough will have to shell out a whacking £4 million for AZ Alkmaar's Gertar Steinsson (who?)

Oh, and Manchester United are going to buy Carlos Tevez. Only they aren't really.

## NCA looks to youth

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the focus was more on performances, be it domestic or A team.

The likes of openers Jaihur Islam, Imrul Kayes, Junayed Siddique, Raquibul Hasan, Gazi Salahuddin and Nazimuddin are just a step away from the international scene, so the onus is on these talented batsmen to raise their game.

Mahmudullah Riyad, who will be in Sri Lanka soon as the one-day specialist, is the only player who turns his wrist clockwise to release the ball!

But it was remarkable to see Naeem Islam and Marshall Ayub making it to the national setup. Their recall was completely due to scoring runs in the Corporate and Dhaka Premier and National Cricket League.

There was an old face among the

## Rezaul denies Sheikh Russel

## UNB, Khulna

Khulna Abahani forced giants Sheikh Russel to split points as the two teams drew 1-1 in the day's only B. League match at the Khulna Divisional Stadium yesterday.

The hosts' striker Rezaul Hakim scored the 75th minute equaliser which effectively denied the new Dhaka giants a chance to get on top of the points table ahead of Abahani. Earlier, striker Maksudul Alam struck for Sheikh Russel in the 14th minute of the match.

With this result, Sheikh Russel now have 28 points from 16 matches, a point behind league leaders Abahani who have a game in hand.

Khulna Abahani raised their points' tally to 12 from 15 matches.

## BCB plan

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for the upcoming year, according to the general secretary.

But in the greater scheme of things, projected income is held at Tk 168.55 crore while it was predicted that the balance for next year would be above Tk 150 crore. Last year, the BCB had a balance of Tk 83 crore.

One of the major revenue for the board is the television deal with Nimbus and according to the board officials, they have paid up Tk 24 crore, with Tk 13.5 crore that was an advance payment.

The media reported impending dissolve of the cricket board was not discussed by the board members during the meeting.

Meanwhile, coaches' names on BCB's shortlist was not mentioned to the reporters but it was informed that the interviews will begin next week. In another development, 45 people have applied for the post of national team manager.

## Mauresmo

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Watched from the Royal Box by former West Indian cricket skippers Clive Lloyd and Brian Lara, who are more than familiar with wet English summers, Mauresmo was untroubled in her third round match which she wrapped up with an ace.

Worriedly for her rivals, the 26-year-old Frenchwoman has dropped just 10 games in three matches at the 2007 championships.

Mauresmo, who goes on to face either Czech 14th seed Nicole Vaidisova or Victoria Azarenka of Belarus for a place in the quarterfinals, would have been delighted to have got on to Centre Court on Saturday.

Torrential rain had swamped the All England Club earlier in the day.

## Rafa plans

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"My head is with the Argentina team to play the Copa America.

"After that and a holiday, I will know better where I will play next season."

Benitez has struggled to find a regular left-back for Liverpool and reportedly sees Heinze, no longer first-choice at Old Trafford, as the ideal candidate to fill the role.

## FedExpress crushes

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campaign end on Court Two, the graveyard of the champions, when she was knocked out by unseeded American Laura Granville 6-4, 6-2.

Granville, who has only reached the second week of a Grand Slam once before, now faces a fourth round tie against Dutch teenager Michaela Krajicek.

Hingis admitted her gamble to play the tournament, despite not being fully recovered from a hip injury, had not paid off. "I think overall I shouldn't have played," said the ninth seed.

In stark contrast to the quickfire wins of Henin and Williams, two other women seeds endured marathon third round outings.

Third seeded Serb, Jelena Jankovic, battled back from a set down to beat Czech 25th seed Lucie Safarova 5-7, 7-6 (7/4), 6-2 and now faces French 18th seed Marion Bartoli for a place in the quarter-finals.

But Russian eighth seed Anna Chakvetadze was knocked out,

fast bowlers as Talha Jubair, the lanky pace bowler who turned heads at the 2003 World Cup, convinced the selectors with his impressive run in the Premier League last season with champions Abahani.

Wicketkeepers Sahagir Hossain and Dhiman Ghosh are, as predicted, in the squad.

## SQUAD

Jaihur Islam, Imrul Kayes, Junayed Siddique, Rokibul Hasan, Marshall Ayub, Nadir Chowdhury, Nazimuddin, Gazi Salahuddin, Dollar Mahmud, Ziaur Rahman, Mahbulul Alam, Mahmudullah Riyad, Talha Jubair, Suharwardi Shuvo, Naeem Islam, Nasiruddin Faruque, Mosharraf Hossain, Nabil Samad, Sahagir Hossain and Dhiman Ghosh.

However, the world number one is adamant she does not feel a burning desire to erase the bitter memories of those defeats.

"I still believe I can do it, but it's not an obsession for me," said Henin who has spent just over two hours negotiating her three matches.

"I don't think that much about that. I just want to enjoy every moment. I don't have anything to prove."

India's golden girl Sania Mirza, a devout Muslim, saw her controversial decision to team up with Israel's Shahar Peer pay off when the 16th seeded pair won their opening doubles beating Lilia Osterloh and Sofia Arvidsson 7-5, 6-3.

But Russian eighth seed Anna Chakvetadze was knocked out,

## Eng at par with WI

## Cricket

## AFP, London

Owais Shah blazed 55 from 35 balls as England beat West Indies in the second Twenty20 international at the Brit Oval Friday to level the two-match series 1-1.

As they had on Thursday, England's run chase was hampered by the regular loss of wickets, but this time their target was not so challenging and they found enough contributions to see them home.

It was Shah, though, who stood out. Called into the one-day squad after England's disappointing World Cup, he showed great composure and a willingness to improvise in a perfectly timed innings.

Others were less impressive. Alastair Cook, who always seemed a surprising selection for this length of the game, failed for the second successive match, bowled middle-stump by Darren Powell, who was steaming in far faster than he had in the Test series.

Matt Prior, who enjoyed a successful Test series against the West Indies, though, set about the bowling with gusto, despite taking a blow on the left wrist from a Powell bouncer.

He smashed two sumptuous fours off Ravi Rampaul's second over before he too was bowled, playing all round a straight delivery to fall for 22 of 14 balls.

Jonathan Trott followed in Rampaul's next over, caught off the glove by wicketkeeper Denesh Ramdin as he attempted to pull, and Kevin Pietersen, who had got off the mark with a bludgeoning shot through the covers for four, almost followed next ball.

They got them in anti-climatic style with five wickets to win with three balls to spare.

"It's a great feeling," Collingwood said after leading England to his first victory as captain. "I'm just very proud of the boys and the effort they put in."

"We learnt a lot from last (Thursday) night. We spoke a lot about that,

and we went out there and did it.

"There were lots of good things about last (Thursday) night. To get that close to a massive total was a great effort. It shows we're fighters."

"We spoke about how we could improve the bowling and the fielding. We chose when to use slower balls better and everything went right."

Gayle (61) and Marlon Samuels (42) had top-scored for West Indies, but England's bowling and fielding was much tighter than it had been in Thursday's opening game as they restricted their opponents to 169-7, 39 fewer than they had made the previous day.

West Indies were hampered by a knee injury to Shivnarine Chanderpaul and a thigh strain to Devan Smith.

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